

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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area, scope, and progress.

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INTRODUCTION

This report, prepared in response to a specific request and based on monitored Soviet broadcasts of the past six months, presents all of the available monitored information pertinent to the subject of current Soviet scientific expeditions. Most of this (obviously limited) information has appeared in very brief items which rarely elaborate details of the expedition(s) or research to which reference is made. Routes of expeditions are never given. Only the areas of research are indicated; and often these are only generally identified. Usually, also, references to the scope of the research are limited to general statements. Reports on the results or progress of specific projects infrequently appear; and when they do, it is again in quite general terms.

(In the following tabular presentation, the figures in parentheses refer to the date of the Soviet broadcast from which the particular information was taken.)

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<u>AREA OF RESEARCH</u>	<u>SCOPE OF RESEARCH</u>	<u>RESULTS OR PROGRESS</u>
CENTRAL ASIA.....		
Aral-Caspian plain.....	Exploration of "new suitable areas for cotton-growing" (7/29) "Aral-Caspian expedition" working on problem of reclaiming deserts of Central Asia and of utilizing waters of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya flowing into the Aral Sea "to irrigate at least 10,000,000 hectares on the Aral-Caspian plain." (7/22; 7/29)	
	"Kara Kum Project" (underway for 9 months at time of report) investigating future canal projects "to make fertile vast area of 3 or 4 million hectares of uncultivated land" (4/22); study of canal site between the Amu Darya and the Murgab River (6/25)	Expediency of digging canal between Amu Darya and Murgab confirmed.
EXPLORATION.....		
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Betpak-Dala Desert.....	Astro-botanical research, headed by Tikhov, founder of this new science; Tikhov, in high mountain regions of Republic. Tikhov's theory "was first to prove that planet Mars possesses vegetation similar to the plant life on Earth, notably in its arctic and alpine regions." Aim of expedition--to study Juniper, Edelweiss, and other plants similar to those growing on Mars. (9/18)	Plants photographed with help of ultra-violet and infra-red rays; spectrographic pictures made. "New phenomena hitherto unknown to science relative to the fluorescence of flowers discovered." (9/18)
Altaï Mountains.....	Expedition to study the reclamation of tracts of the "Hungry Steppe" for pasture land. The station has well-equipped laboratories for veterinary work, irrigation, and soil science, and a herd of 15,000 for experiments. The expedition is to remain in the desert "throughout the year." (4/26)	
	Study of polymetallic Altaï ores (4/26)	Effective methods of extracting rare metals from Altaï ores; ... found that 6 to 7 times more metal can be extracted than heretofore.

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<u>AREA OF RESEARCH</u>	<u>SCOPE OF RESEARCH</u>	<u>RESULTS OR PROGRESS</u>
TADJIKISTAN.....		
Pamir region.....	Investigator, headed by Prof. Alexander Kirichenko, of the Republic's fauna. (8/16)	Returned with "a valuable collection which, after being studied, will be submitted to the Zoological Museum of the USSR Academy of Sciences."
TURKMENIA.....	Study of frequent earthquakes in the mountain region near the Pamir. (One of 12 "big expeditions dispatched this year to various districts of the country by the Geophysics Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences.") (6/17)	
Kopet-Dag foothills.....	22 scientific expeditions--geo-chemical study of oil-bearing areas. (6/5)	
RESEARCH.....	Research in geological structure of Kopet Dag Range foothills. (6/5)	
SIBERIA.....	"Prospecting bureau" investigating question of exploiting the oil fields. (7/31)	
Krasnoyarsk & Minusinsk area, Tuva AR.....	"Several expeditions" of astronomers and astrophysicists to observe solar eclipse of 9 May 1942. Observation centers in Vladivostok and several other points in Siberia. (5/8)	
Yakutsk Province.....	Search for minerals, particularly iron-ore; and research for improvement of agriculture. (4/22)	
Lena-Alaid watershed.....	Geologist Zolnikov in charge of study of soil and flora studies in center of Province. (4/27)	
Lena River.....	Expedition, led by Dr. Keshin, to lakes of Lena-Alaid watershed. (4/27)	
Ussai Taiga.....	Study of fish life under direction of Biologist Mukhamedieiev. (4/27)	
Irkutsk Province.....	Astro-physical study of the so-called Sikhote-Alinck Meteorite, headed by Fontom, magnetologist of Institute of Geophysics of USSR Ac. of Sc. (6/8)	
Lake Baikal.....	Geological research. (4/17)	Discovery "of an industrial coal strata in the Galumets region."
	"Extensive research" of the world's deepest water reservoir, under direction of the Limnological Laboratory of the USSR Ac. of Sc. Other lakes of the country also being studied. (6/21)	

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AREA OF RESEARCH

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RESULTS OF PROGRESS

SAKHALIN.....

SCOPE OF DOCUMENT

Establishment of a new reserve for preservation of the rich forests and animals of central & southern Sakhalin; to comprise 270,000 square kilometers. (6/10)

ESTHONIA.....

20 expeditions to study the "Republic's natural wealth and history"; survey of 50,000 hectares of peat lands for new briquette factories; two soil-study expeditions in northern Estonia; expeditions "to study the economics, history, and development of Estonian farming, . . . experimental and clinical medicine, archeology, literature, and language." (6/12)

Discovery of lime deposits which, added to the soil, "will permit an increase in annual harvest yields by 100,000 tons in the southern areas of the Republic alone."

LITHUANIA.....

Examination of peat deposits. (4/26)

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